–लघु और कुटीर क्षेत्रों को कच्चा माल की आपूर्ति उनके उत्पादों का विपणन इत्यादि जैसी समर्थन सेवाएं प्रदान करना। संशोधित सम्मिलित उद्देश्यों के परिपेक्ष्य में एल०टी०सी० ने वर्ष 1991-92 के लिए अपनी क्रिया योजना की रूपरेखा तैयार की है जिसमें निम्नलिखित पर जोर डाला गया है :–

–सीधे बेचना और खरीदना

–निर्यात के नए क्षेत्रों का पता लगाना।

–निजी आपूर्ति आधार का सृजन।

–तीसरे देशों के साथ व्यापार इत्यादि।

(घ) और (ङ) चालू वित्तीय वर्ष के प्रारम्भ में एस०टी०सी० के कर्मचारियों की स्थिति निम्नानुसार है :–

दिनांक 1-4-91 के अनुसार

प्रबंधक	905
कर्मचारी	1627
कुल	2532

(च) स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन द्वारा 1990-91 के दौरान कमाया गया कर पूर्व निवल लाभ 34.6 करोड़ रुपए हुआ। स्थापना प्रशासन और वर्ष 1990-91 के लिए अन्य लागत सहित 38.2 करोड़ रुपए हुआ।

Trade deficit during current year

378. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the foreign trade deficit expected during this year;

(b) whether this includes imports for defence;

(c) what is the expected overall Balance of Payment deficit; and

(d) the manner in which this deficit is expected to be covered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) According to the provisional figures, India's trade deficit has come down from Rs. 4234 crores during April–September, 1990 to Rs. 2356 crores during April–September 1991. It is difficult to precisely estimate the trade deficit for the financial year 1991-92 at this stage.

(b) The trade figures include only the merchandise trade that pass through the customs, without any distinction being made whether they are for defence purposes or otherwise.

(c) and (d) The deficit in trade account is to be financed by net invisibles and flows in the Capital Account in order to maintain the level of foreign currency reserves. Hence the question of a deficit in overall balance of payment as such does not arise.

Government's stand on drafts agreement on special 301

379. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a draft agreement on Special 301 was handed over by the U.S. Trade representative during his visit to Washington;

(b) if so, what are the details of this draft agreement; and

(c) what is Government's decision/stand on the various clauses of the draft agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) In the normal course of bilateral consultations the U.S. authorities handed over to the Indian

Embassy in Washington drafts of model agreements on issues that were expected to come up for discussion during the visit of the Minister of State for Commerce to Washington. However the matter was subsequently not raised and no discussion on any draft agreement took place.

Visit of US Trade Representative and Patent Laws

380. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Working Group on Patent Laws has released any Press Statement on October 11, 1991 on the visit of US Trade Representative;

(b) if so, what were the issues stated in the Press Statement;

(c) whether it is a fact that US trade representative has tried to misguide the Indians that the prices of drugs and pharmaceuticals in the country would decrease on the introduction of new patent regime as prtptgated by US;

(d) what are the details of new proposals of USA about the patent regime which should be followed by our country; and

(e) whether it is a fact that US Trade Representative has ruled out the broad compulsory licensing provisions which are an integral features of our Patent Laws?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e) The National Working Group on Patent Laws issued a Press Release on 11 October, 1991 in connection with remarks stated to have been made at a Press Conference held by the United States Trade Representative Ms. Carla Hills on 7 October, 1991 during her visit to India. According to press reports, Ms. Carla Hills stated, *inter alia*, that various analyses had shown that drug prices had come down in countries which had enforced patent protection. According to the National Working Group, this statement incorrect. According to an analysis undertaken by the National Working Group, prices of drugs in India would rise several times if product patents were introduced for drugs and pharamaceuticals.

The Press Release also refers to a statement reported to have been made by Ms. Carla Hills that the turnover of patented drugs in India is only five per cent. The National Working Group has contested this estimate, although according to the Group, no authentic data on this is available.

No new proposals have been received from the United States about the patent regime, which should be followed by India. However, in respect of patents, the United States has been raising the issue of the inadequate level of patent protection available in India, including the short term of protection and overly-broad compulsory licensing provisions. In respect of compulsory licensing, the US position in bilateral discussions as well as in the Uruguay Round is that such non-voluntary licences should be issued to meet situations of national emergency or to deal with adjudicated cases of anti-trust.

Acceptance of high cost option by India at Uruguay Round Talks

381. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will he Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the developing countries including India propose to accept a series of high-cost options without any corresponding gains at the Uruguay Round of Trade negotiations;